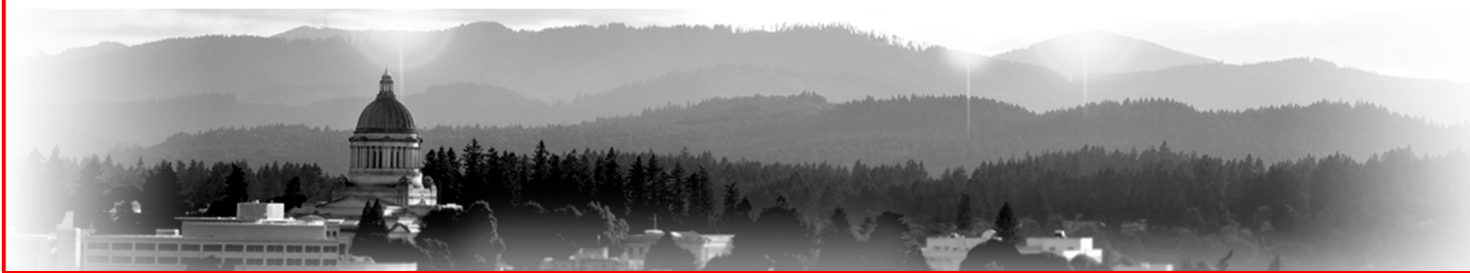


Blackhills FC Newsletter

November / December 2023 Part 1





Blackhills
in
October
&
November



Have team selfies to share? Send them to communications@blackhillsfc.org



SIGNED!

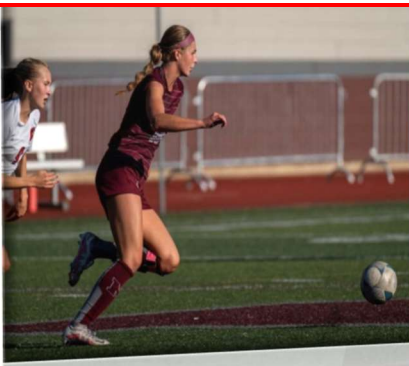
Mikayla Stanfield is a 3-time Evergreen 1A All-League MVP and finished in 3rd place with the Montesano High School Team in the 2023 season at the Washington State Tournament. On November 10, 2023, she officially signed with Gonzaga University to continue her soccer at the collegiate level. Below, Mikayla shares her soccer journey as she prepares to play her final season of Club soccer at Blackhills.

What do you enjoy about playing soccer?

My love for the game of soccer comes from many different things. It not only comes from all the great coaches and teammates I've had in my lifetime, but also the competitiveness of the game. I love stepping on a field ready to go out and work harder than anyone there. I also love being surrounded by a team of girls all working hard for the same purpose whether in practice or games. As a forward, I also love to score!! :))

What are your best memories of playing on a Blackhills team?

Some of my best soccer memories come from my years at Black Hills. Even though I joined the club a lot later than most girls, I always felt invited and welcomed. There are so many fun memories with my team like Cannon Beach and barn soccer, and the people I met will always be friends of mine even as college comes around the corner. I am so thankful for the coaching I've had at Black Hills and the people I've met!



How did Gonzaga become your team and school of choice?

After visiting the school and meeting the team and coaches, I knew immediately Gonzaga was my top choice. Along with having a beautiful campus and field, the soccer program values hard work and people with good character, which is exactly what I want to be surrounded with for the next four years. The coaches are striving each year to get farther than the last and really work on the little technical things each day, and not just get caught up in the big picture. Even with other offers on the table, Gonzaga quickly became my top choice, and I couldn't be more excited!

What were some of the key factors in getting you to Signing Day?

Along with all of my coaches and teammates, I believe there were two pieces of advice that got me to where I am today. Coming from my Dad, no matter where I was, he said this: "Always be the hardest working person on the field" and "From the minute you step out of the car, you never know who's watching". Working hard is something everyone can do that takes no skill, only heart, and it is something people notice. The other piece of advice "You never know who's watching" is something I have found to be very, very true. Whether at practice or at a tournament, you NEVER know who's watching you or who knows who. This means being a good teammate on and off the field and doing things even as simple as jogging to go get a ball or to get water, because you never know when a recruiting coach is watching. Even after getting recruited, this is still something my dad will say to me, because working hard needs to be a given, and jogging everywhere you go catches people's eye, whether you are trying to get recruited or not.

How did your parents support you throughout your soccer journey?

With my parents always pushing me to be a hard worker and develop my skill, they truly helped me get to where I am today. They were and are always there to support me, whether that's driving to practice or across the state for a tournament or camp. They have guided me through tough decisions and coached me since I first started playing. Huge thanks to them!!